

NEW PLAYS FOR THE NEW YEAR

NOVELTIES IN DRAMA AND OPERETTA.



Sallie Fisher and Walter Percival in "Eva."

PLAYS OF THE NEW YEAR

A Full Week of Entertainments to Start Off the New Year.

MONDAY—Daly's Theatre, "The Drone," a play of Irish life to be seen for the first time in New York at a matinee.
New Amsterdam Theatre, "Eva," a new play with music by Franz Lehar.
Lyric Theatre, Sam Bernard in "All for the Ladies," a musical play adapted from the French.
Harris Theatre, "Cheer Up," a farce by Mary R. Rinehart.
Berkeley Theatre, "His Wife by His Side," Drama by E. E. Keays, produced by the National Federation of Theatre Clubs.

TUESDAY—
"Alibi Bill," at Weber's Theatre. Drama of the underworld by J. B. Totten.

WEDNESDAY—
Maxine Elliott Theatre. First performance at a matinee of "Turandot," Chinese play by Richard Volmoeiller.



Adeline Genée at The Park Theatre.

Sam Bernard Millicent Evans
in
"All for the Ladies" Alibi Bill.



Sybilla Pope in "Cheer Up"
Emily Stevens in "Turandot"

POINTS IN PLAYS.

Merits of the Dramas Before the Public.

Two actresses once notable in the history of the stage are now playing the parts of old women in current dramas. Who would suspect that Maude Granger, who acts the old nurse in "Racketty Packetty House," had been the first *Dora* in "Diplomacy" in this country and was at one time a noted beauty in the ranks of native actresses? She not only acted this part but put to her credit while leading lady of Wallack's and other companies some of the roles that subsequently became famous. She and the child actors in "Racketty Packetty House" have started off George Tyler's Children's Theatre with all the interest which should attach to an enterprise so unusual. Master Gabriel is a delight. His skill in comic utterance is equalled by the grace and appropriateness of every gesture. There is a real sense of comedy in the little girl who plays the bonne & tout faire in "Racketty Packetty House."

Emile Melville, who is the dowager of such dignified appearance but unpleasant disposition in "Peg of My Heart," at the Cort Theatre, used to be a popular divette of comic opera and created *Serpentine* in the first American performance of Planquette's "The Chimes of Normandy." At that time she was a member of the Hess Opera Company. The *Germanine* was Zella Sequin and later Helen Dingon. William Castle sang the *Marquise*. James Peakes was the *Gaspard* and a notable cast sang the opera in English. The New York performances were given at the Fifth Avenue Theatre.

There is to be no repetition here of the Astor Place riots just because Harry Lauder has expressed a desire to play the title rôle in "Hamlet." The evil spirit that prevailed between American and English actors in the days of Forrest and Macready finds no place now in the breasts of our players. John Kellard, who continues to act Shakespeare's tragedy at the Garden Theatre, has put at the service of the distinguished Scotch vocalist his theatre, his admirable company and the complete staff of his enterprise whenever Mr. Lauder wants to make the effort to give his idea of the melancholy Dane to the New York public.

Other popular men stars on the local stage at present are: Robert Hilliard, who in an authentic detective play, "The Argyle Case," is to be seen at the Criterion Theatre; William Collier, who will play "Never Say Die" at an extra New Year's Day matinee at the Forty-eighth Street Theatre this week; George M. Cohan, who has trained another company to act in "Broadway Jones" on the road but is still to be seen at the Cohan Theatre in that popular play, and Norman McKinnel, in "Rutherford and Son," at the Little Theatre.

Women stars who will be seen during the present week are: Maude Adams, who will play the ever delightful "Peter Pan" for a short time longer at the Empire Theatre; Mrs. Fiske, who is still

acting in "The High Road" to large audiences; Alla Nazimova, who finds the atmosphere of Wallack's Theatre well suited to the excitement of "Bella Donna." Annie Russell has arranged a repertoire of her successes of the present stock season at the Thirty-ninth Street Theatre for the next to the last week. On Monday and Tuesday "She Stoops to Conquer" will be acted, while on Wednesday and Thursday nights and at the Friday matinee "The Rivals" will be given. The bill on Friday and Saturday night and at the Saturday matinee will be "Much Ado About Nothing." During the last week of the season "The Rivals" will be the only play performed.

Dramas that endure in public favor are: "Within the Law," at the Eltinge.
"The Yellow Jacket," at the Fulton.
"Milestones," at the Liberty.
"The Governor's Lady," at the Republic.
"Years of Discretion," at the Belasco.
"Stop Thief," at the Gaiety.
"Little Women," at the Playhouse.
"The Conspiracy," at the Garrick.
"Fanny's First Play," at the Comedy.
"The Whip," at the Manhattan Opera House.
"Snow White," at the Little Theatre.

Lina Abarbanell and Emma Trentini, who are comic opera singers just at present in the public eye, have both been in the field of opera here. Emma Trentini never sang in the Metropolitan Opera House and her career as an opera singer was confined to Italy and the Manhattan Opera House. Lina Abarbanell was brought to this country by Heinrich Conried to create *Haenel* at the Metropolitan Opera House when Humperdinck's opera

was first sung there. She did no other parts at the Metropolitan, although she appeared in operetta at the Irving Place. One of the works in which she sang there was "Das Süsses Mädel," and a number from that work is in "Miss Princess," at the Park Theatre.
Emma Trentini will have a new interpolated number when she takes "The Firefly" down to the Casino to-morrow night for a long stay. Helen Lowell and "The Red Petticoat" are still to be seen at the Broadway. Gertrude Hoffman and her dancing company are the bill at the Winter Garden.
"Oh! Oh! Delphine" is still the attraction at the Knickerbocker Theatre. "The Lady of the Slipper" is so popular at the Globe Theatre that Charles Dillingham is daily increasing the number of extra matinees. Clifford Crawford and Valli Valli are the new members of the cast at Weber & Fields.

NOVELTIES FOR THE YEAR'S FIRST WEEK

Varied Entertainments Awaiting the New York Public

William A. Brady will present to-morrow afternoon at Daly's Theatre "The Drone." Rutherford Mayne is the author of the new three act play, which is optimistically described as an Irish Bunty. We have already had an English Bunty. Other Bunties may follow. The hero of the new play is an inventor and his nature may be understood from Mr. Brady's desire at one time to call the play "The Dreamer."

Whitford Kane, who is well known as a character actor in Great Britain, will head the company, which consists of the actors who introduced this play to London at the Royalty Theatre.

Klaw & Erlanger will bring to the New Amsterdam Theatre to-morrow night "Eva," which was composed by Franz Lehar and Willner and Bodansky several years ago. Glen Macdonough has prepared the New York version of the work, which differs in many details from the usual comic opera. It possesses some serious interest and was even forbidden in some foreign cities on the ground that the story had socialistic tendencies. Among the actors are Sallie Fisher, Walter Percival, Walter Lawrence and Alma Francis.

Sam Bernard will begin his regular New York engagement to-morrow night in a new piece called "All for the Ladies." Henry Blossom wrote the book and lyrics after the French play "Aime des Femmes." The scenes are laid in Paris; those showing two fashionable dressmaking establish-

ments will be acted as well as the preceding production of this society. Ethel E. Keays wrote the new play and some of the actors in it will be Robert Dronet, Nanette Comstock, Franklin Ritchie, Elsie Esmond, Leona Ball, Frank Weston, G. W. Barnum and Arthur Berthelet.

The fascinating underworld will be revealed at Weber's Theatre on New Year's Eve through "Alibi Bill," by J. B. Totten. The love interest of this play is said to be furnished by a young settlement worker and a reformed crook. The play is in three acts. Among its recommendations put forward by the management are frankness and virility. The actors are Ralph Stewart in the title rôle, Harold Hartsell, Lionel Adams, Millicent Evans, Eleanor Lawson and Richard Carlyle.

Richard Volmoeiller, who wrote the action of "Sumurun" for Max Reinhardt, and was also associated with that stage producer in "The Miracle," is the author of "Turandot," a Chinese play to be produced by the Shuberts at Maxine Elliott's Theatre next Saturday afternoon. The pursuit of a Chinese princess who cannot marry until her lover has solved the riddle which they are all asked is the theme of the story. Those who fail to answer correctly are decapitated, but in spite of this the search continues and finally the princess is won by a successful suitor. The play is in three acts and five scenes and among the actors are Emily Stevens, Josephine Victor, Alice Martin, Genevieve Greville, Pedro de Cordoba, Frank Peters, Andrew Robson, Lenox Pawle, Edward Emery and Robert Fischer.

NOVELTY IN COLOR VIEWS.

To Be Introduced Here on Thursday.

The opening "color conference" by Andre de Fouquieres will be given at Maxine Elliott's Theatre on Thursday, January 2, at 3 o'clock. Gervais Courtellemont of Paris invented a new process of taking and projecting pictures in color. During the last year his little theatre there has made a success. Here under the direction of Elizabeth Marbury these same slides will be presented at Maxine Elliott's Theatre at this series of matinees beginning January 2.

M. Courtellemont has made a vast collection of plates. His work should in no sense be confounded with either the ordinary moving picture or travelogue film colored by hand. His plates are in natural color and photographed direct from the subjects. M. Courtellemont's enterprise is under the patronage of the Prince d'Arenberg of the Institute of France, Funck-Brentano of the Arsenal, Georges Cain, director of the Caranavalet Museum, M. Duchene of the French Academy, the Dowager Duchess d'Uzes, Lenotre, the historian, Poincare, the statesman, and others.

The opening conference by Andre de Fouquieres will be "The Persian Ball," profusely illustrated by reproductions of the Eastern costumes worn at the ball given by the Comtesse de Clermont-Tonnerre, which was the social event of the last Paris season. In conjunction with this M. de Fouquieres will describe with word and picture "The Royal Marriage of an Eastern Prince," a faithful representation of the wedding of the son of the Maharajah of Kapurthala.

Another "color conference" will show "The Day of a Lady of Fashion," when the spectators will follow her from boudoir to ballroom, from dressmaker to modiste, decked out and adorned with the latest creations which Paris lays at the feet of women. Special matinees will be arranged for children under the personal direction of Mura Bayly. These will be illustrated and will deal with the legends and the folklore of Eastern lands.

LE LYCEUM'S XMAS FETE.

An Entertainment at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Le Lyceum, Societe des Femmes de France a New York, has decided to have its entertainment on the evening of January 5 at the Waldorf-Astoria instead of at the Little Theatre, as previously announced. A very interesting programme has been selected and will be rendered in both languages. The musical numbers will include a number for voice, piano, harp and violin by Mlle. Stephenson, Mlle. Florigny, Paul Dufault, Mme. de Grandmont and Maurice Nitke.

Among other diversions will be the procession of the three "Wise Men" and the "Twelfth Night" feast, when the "Twelfth Night" king will be chosen. Adolphe Cohn of Columbia University has consented to be honorary president of the fete, as has also Mrs. Charlotte Wilbour. Among the patronesses are Countess Spotswood Maekin, Mrs. A. Spiegelberg, Mrs. Harriet Holt Dey, Mme. Von Klennen, Baronne Huard, Miss A. Boylan, Mrs. George Judd, Countess Leary and others.

DETECTIVE AS CRITIC.

W. J. Burns Comments and Explains on "The Argyle Case."

"My connection with the authorship of 'The Argyle Case' came about in a peculiar way," Detective William J. Burns told a SUN reporter.
Harvey J. O'Higgins is a young writer of magazine stories. His tales of the New York Fire Department, entitled "The Smoke Eaters," first brought him into prominence. He also treated some of my famous cases in story form. A number of persons wanted to dramatize them but I declined. I had long kept in mind the idea of a real detective play, logical and consistent, with a real detective working along the latest methods and bringing to his aid the most approved scientific aids, such as the dictograph. I love the theatre and have always managed to keep in touch with it. Naturally I saw all the detective plays. They impressed me as being more or less fantastic, unreal and lacking in plausibility. After talking the matter over with O'Higgins, who had never written a play, we secured the cooperation of Harriet Ford, who had written several very

successful ones. Then we put our heads together. It was no easy matter to collaborate, for I was then deep in the McNamara investigation and on the jump from one city to another, clear out to the Pacific coast. It was catch as catch can collaboration—at odd moments, sometimes at the luncheon hour, frequently long after midnight, when there was a lull in office activities.

"I laid out the plot and suggested the characters. The incidents were based upon facts. The characters have all lived. For instance, Dr. Kreiser is a prototype of old Charley Ulrich, a man of great brain, the most wonderful counterfeiter in history. No other maker of bad money ever caused the Government as much expense and anxiety. He was an artist—a great man gone wrong. The murder mystery had its basis in an actual case. It was worked out in practically the same way.

"Well, the play grew and was completed. Klaw & Erlanger had signed a contract upon a mere scenario. The manuscript was immediately accepted. Then arose the question of who should play Asche Kypson, the detective.
"Robert Hilliard was under contract as a star for a term of years to Klaw & Erlanger, and when they told us that Hilliard was the man I was delighted. Curiously enough, I had tried to 'see' nearly all our best known American actors in the part, and I had always come back to Hilliard as the ideal Kypson. I had admired him tremendously in 'A Fool There Was.' He had the poise and distinction, the ease and authority required.

"As I told the first night audience at the Criterion on Christmas eve, Hilliard portrays a real detective—to my mind the first I have seen upon the stage. And this detective works as a real detective works. The authors have sought to instruct the public as to the actual methods of criminal investigation, to develop a story based upon facts in a sensible way, to avoid any device that is in the slightest degree improbable or overdrawn, to emphasize the absolute futility of crime and not to glorify or idealize the criminal."

POSING FOR THE FILMS.

Noted American Actors Recently Added to the Movies.

The extent to which the foremost actors of the American theatre are to allow the famous Players Film Company to reproduce their pictures in noted plays of their repertoire may be understood from its latest list of artists. When Mrs. Fiske, William Faversham and Julie Opp, Viola Allen, Mrs. Leslie Carter, Henry E. Dixey, Weber and Fields, James O'Neill, J. E. Hackett and Mrs. Langtry take their place before the cameras there need be no suggestion that there is any loss of dignity in such a process of immortalizing an actor's methods.

Hackett has just finished posing for the pictures which show him in "The Prisoner of Zenda." James O'Neill has acted the famous "Monte Cristo," with which his name was associated for so many years. Mrs. Carter will act in "Zaza," and William Faversham will give with his company scenes from his recently notable production of "Julius Caesar." Viola Allen will show *Glory Daze* in "The Christian," and Henry Dixey will give a version of that old Standard Theatre burlesque prepared for him after the days of "Adonis" and called "The Seven Ages." Mrs. Langtry will act an entire play, and Weber and Fields are to be seen in a sketch called "Around the World."

AWAITING THEIR ENDS.

Last Lingering Hours of Some Local Productions.

Billie Burke is to remain but one week longer at the Lyceum Theatre. She will have presented "The Mind the Paint Girl" more frequently than any other recent Pinero comedy has been acted here.

"The Daughter of Heaven" will be presented next week in Detroit. In order to move this massive production there in time the last performance of the drama at the Century Theatre will take place on Wednesday night.

"Hindle Wakes" will remain at the Maxine Elliott Theatre only until next Friday, and that evening the last performance will be given. English triumphs in the line of advanced drama do not always meet with the same success here that they do on the continent. But here rents are higher, actors receive larger salaries and the difficulty of running theatres without the cooperation of paying audiences is altogether greater.

Ziegfeld's "Follies of 1912" are to be moved to Boston next week in the effort to interest that city in the frivolous reviews of the week-end. The show here is only the week to contemplate Elizabeth Brice, Bert Williams and Bernard Grauwe at the Moulin Rouge.

"Lawthorne of the U. S. A." is not to be enjoyed at the Astor Theatre after this week. Douglas Fairbanks and his company will take their drama of adventure in the Balkans to other climes. Next week "Fine Feathers," Eugene Walter's latest drama, will be seen. It has been a success in other cities.

HOLIDAYS FILL PLAYHOUSES.

Wide Range of Spectacles Offers Something for All Tastes.

The Hippodrome has been crowded during the past week with happy spectators who are taking advantage of the holiday in the city. The nation has seen the wonders of "Under Many Flags." They take delight in this trip of the party of Americans in an airship through European and Asiatic countries. First Washington and Annabell are shown; then Brittany, Germany, Holland, Russia, Scotland, China and Arizona reveal their beauties to the spectators. The performance ends appropriately with the magic city of golden palms, with the silver palace of universal peace and the court of crystal fountains, which could never exist in any country or for that matter anywhere outside the imagination of the expert stage managers and scene painters of the Hippodrome.

To-night Arthur and Oscar Hammerstein will give a concert at the Hippodrome. Emma Trentini and Orville Harold will sing. There will be an orchestra under the direction of Gaetano Merola. There will also be on the programme a waltz by Oscar Hammerstein and Boris Hambourg will play the cello.

The Kinemacolor Company will on Monday night present its views showing "The Making of the Panama Canal" as well as "Actual Scenes of the Balkan War." These pictures were made abroad by special permission and the interesting foreign potentes revealed there.

The Paul J. Rainey hunting pictures are still on exhibition at the Bijou Theatre. There are really matinee and the holiday attendance is larger than ever.
Burton Holmes will begin on January 12 and 13 two special courses at Carnegie Hall on "The Indies, East and West," which will include views of our own hemisphere and of India as well.